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DATE: April 30, 2009

TO: Infection Control Practitioners, Local Health Department Staff, Tribal Health  
Agency Staff, DPH Regional Office Directors

FROM: Jim Kazmierczak, DVM, Bureau of Communicable Diseases

RE: Testing for Swine Influenza at the State Laboratory of Hygiene (SLH)

Beginning immediately, the SLH will accept specimens for swine influenza H1N1 testing without preapproval by public health.

The requirement to have specimens pre-approved for testing at the SLH is being waived because the requirement was resulting in unacceptable delays in specimen submission.

Please continue to submit the SLH Specimen Submission Form, however, the Wisconsin Novel Influenza Case Report/Approval Form is no longer needed.

We do ask clinicians to recognize that the resources of the SLH are finite, and to please ensure that patients being tested actually have an influenza-like illness.

Please share this information widely with appropriate parties. Thank you for your cooperation.